



Borrowing tools from work

A public sector employee sees an opportunity to help her husband establish a small business. How will this play out?

The story

Sonia's husband Keith has just been made redundant, which means that her job at the fire service is supporting both of them at the moment.

Keith has started taking on odd jobs as a handyman and gardener on the weekend to bring in a bit of extra cash. Because finances are tight, Sonia has been borrowing tools and equipment from work for him to use. She doesn't see any harm in doing this as they are just sitting in the shed over the weekend. Besides, a couple of her colleagues have borrowed things before – it's no problem.

Sonia hasn't spoken to her district officer about this directly but he knows what she's doing and has decided to turn a blind eye – it will hopefully stop when Keith gets full-time work.

Questions

1. What are the issues around this situation?
2. What could be done to address the issues?

The information used in this scenario is not factual – we created it for education and discussion. Any likeness to actual persons or events is coincidental.



The Commission can help

We are available to provide support and assistance with identifying, reporting, investigating, managing and preventing misconduct: prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au or 1300 720 289.

For more Misconduct Prevention resources go to www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources